

ALEXANDER W.M. JOHNSTON

Assistant Professor of Film
Seattle University
johnstonalex@seattleu.edu
aljiers.net

EDUCATION

- December 2017 **Ph.D.** University of California, Santa Cruz
Film and Digital Media Department
Dissertation: "From Prison Yard to Field of Play: Documentary Histories of Race and Movement in Film, Television, and New Media"
Committee: Jonathan Kahana (Chair), Irene Lusztig, David Brundage, Irene Gustafson, Lawrence Andrews
- June 2010 **M.A.** University of California, Santa Cruz
Social Documentation
Thesis Film: *Way Down in the Hole*
Committee: B. Ruby Rich, Renée Tajima-Peña, David Brundage
- February 2003 **B.A.** Pitzer College
Department of Film and Electronic Arts
Self-designed major: *Cultural Resistance: Creative Traditions of the African Diaspora*

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

- 2016, 2015, 2012 **Florence French Scholarship**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2015 **Graduate Grant Arts Project Recipient**, UC Institute for Research in the Arts
- 2015 **Arts Division Dissertation Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2015 **Doctoral Student Sabbatical Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2010 **Chancellor's Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2009 **Jack Henning Graduate Fellowship**, Fund for Labor Culture and History
- 2009 **Graduate Student Travel Grant**, UC Humanities Research Institute
- 2008 **Regent's Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz

VIDEO & MEDIA

- 2017 *Evidence of the Evidence*, 21 minutes (video)
- 2016 *Strange and Curious* (GIF series)
*Ra*ist President* (GIF series)
- 2015 *A Costly Lesson*, 10 minutes (video)
- 2014 *NOW! AGAIN!*, 5 minutes (video)
Mugshots, 1.5 minutes (video)

- 2013 *Radio Liberty*, 6 minutes (video)
A New Way in Knocking Them Out, 3.5 minutes (video)
- 2012 *You My Opposer*, 3.5 minutes (interactive multimedia installation and video)
Mabel in Motion, 3 minutes (video)
- 2011 *Always on Defense (or, Bill Russell Moves)*, 3 minutes (video)
A Petition in Boots, 10 minutes (video)
- 2010 *Way Down in the Hole*, 40 minutes, (video)
- 2008 *Learning to Bend Steel*, 10 minutes (video)

SCREENINGS

- 2018 Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), Berlin, Germany
 Camden International Film Festival, Camden, ME
 American Film Institute (AFI), Los Angeles, CA
 Tacoma Film Festival, Tacoma, WA
 Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil
 Anti Matter Media Festival, Vancouver, BC
 MDocs Storyteller's Insitute, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
 Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, Iowa City, IA
 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN
 Lisbon International Independent Film Festival (IndieLisboa), Lisbon, Portugal
 Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
 ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 Museum of Human Achievement, Austin, TX
- 2017 Alternativa Film/Video Festival, Belgrade, Serbia
 Pluralities, Documentary Film Institute, San Francisco, CA
 Collective Misnomer, Dikeou Collection, Denver, CO
 Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil
 Dulces Trópicos Festival, Lima, Peru
 YES - Ypsi Experimental Space, Ypsilanti, MI
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
 Experimental Response Cinema, Austin, TX
- 2016 Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY
 The Broad Theater, New Orleans, LA
 Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
 Mechanical Eye Microcinema, Asheville, NC
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 New Orleans Film Festival, New Orleans, LA
 Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, **Honorable Mention**, Iowa City, IA
 Thin Line Film Festival, Denton, TX
 Saint Louis International Film Festival, Saint Louis, MO
 Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY

- “Documented Italians” Film and Video Series, Queens College, CUNY, Manhattan, NY
 Cinema Contra, Denver, CO
 Show Me Justice Film Festival, Warrensburg, MO
 BloomScreen and DC Moving Pictures, Washington, D.C.
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
 Revisiting Ludlow: It's Enduring Legacy, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
 Bread and Roses Workers Cultural Center, Denver, CO
- 2013 On the Clock: A Playful Guide to Working Life, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA
 Colorado Mountain College, Common Reader Events, Screenings at 5 campuses, Colorado, CO
- 2011 Not Fiction! A Screening of Experimental Documentaries, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
 University of Colorado Denver, CO
 Ludlow Memorial Labor Festival, Colorado State University at Pueblo, CO
 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA
 San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Library of Congress, Remembering Archie Green, Washington, D.C.
 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA
 San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA
 Labor and Working Class History Association National Conference, Chicago, IL

PUBLICATIONS

“**What You Want Me to Be’: Documentary Representations of Muhammad Ali from the 1970s to the Present,**” in *Journal of Sport and Social Issues: Special Issue on the Sport Documentary*, ed. Travis Vogan and C.L. Cole (*in press*)

“**Strange and Curious’: An Uncanny Hagiography of Muhammad Ali,**” in *INCITE: Journal of Experimental Media*, ed. Brett Kashmere and Astria Suparak (April 2018)

“**What Hurts’: The Persistence of History in Ava Duvernay’s 13th,**” in *Docalogue*, ed. Jaimie Baron and Kristen Fuhs (February 2017)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Panels Organized

- 2018 “Reframing Sports Media”
 Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference
 Toronto, Canada

Papers and Presentations

- 2018 “Salesman and Saint: The Television Commercials of Muhammad Ali” (*upcoming*)
 Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference
 Toronto, Canada

- 2017 “In Resistance with Filmmaker Scholars” and “Innovation & Scholarship in Nonfiction Media Journals”
 Pluralities Conference
 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- “And Again, and Again, and Again’: Rhythm, Repetition, Tempo, and the GIF as Indexical Document,”
 Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference
 Chicago, IL
- “The Final Stretch”
 Visiting artist in Thesis Production course
 Vassar College, Film Department, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2016 “Spectacle and Process: The Document, the Documentary, and the Sports GIF”
 Visible Evidence XXIII
 Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- “The Haptic Archive: Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali and Embodied Historical Encounters”
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies
 Atlanta, GA
- 2015 “The Radical Archive: Attica Distorted, Attica Revealed”
 Visible Evidence XXII
 University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- “What Now!?: Radical Politics and Radical Media in the Digital Landscape”
 Poetics and Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium
 UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2014 “The Counter-Archive and the Question of Dust”
 Radical Historiographies Graduate Student Symposium
 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- 2012 “Outside Attica: Solidarity, Temporality and the Moving Image”
 Solidarity, Memory and Identity Conference
 University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland
- 2010 “The Lessons of Ludlow: Inter-ethnic Solidarity During the Great Colorado Coalfield War”
 Southwest Labor Studies Association Annual Conference
 UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2009 “Learning to Bend Steel: The Political Formation of Laborlorist Archie Green”
 Southwest Labor Studies Association Annual Conference
 California State Hayward, Hayward, CA

Conferences Attended

- 2017 Radical Film Network NYC: A Global Gathering

Murphy Institute, CUNY, New York, New York

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, UC Santa Cruz, CA

2018 Experimental Film and Video
2017 Introduction to Film Studies
2016 Introduction to Production Technique
2015 Film Authors: Werner Herzog
2015, 2013 Found Footage
2014 Film Directing
2013 The Fire Last Time: Social Movements and the Documentary

Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Cruz, CA

2017 Experimental Film and Video
2016 Writing for Artists
2014, 2011 American Film: 1960 to Present
2013 Photography Now
2013, 2011 Introduction to Television Studies
2012 Documentary Film and Media
Gender and Global Cinema
Silent Cinema
2011 Film Genres: Film Noir
2010 Film Authors: Mike Leigh
2010, 2009 Introduction to Community Activism
2009 Introduction to Social Documentation
2008 Introduction to American Studies

Instructor, Digital Media Academy, Los Gatos, CA

2013, 2012 Introduction to Filmmaking

Post Baccalaureate Urban Fellow, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA

2004-05 Teaching in Prisons
Media Studies
Urban Horticulture

RESEARCH, CURATORIAL, EDITORIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

2014-present *NOW! A Journal of Urgent Praxis*
Managing Editor, contributor
Assisted in founding of online media journal (Now-Journal.com) and serve as a managing editor and contributor; designed, implemented and serve as webmaster for journal website

2017-present *Pluralities: Non-Fiction Film Journal*, San Francisco, CA
Editorial Board Member
Editorial board member for non-fiction film journal, published by the Documentary Film Institute at San Francisco State University

- 2015-present *Peabody Awards*, Athens, GA
Nominating Committee Member
Reviewed and nominated documentary media submissions for Peabody Awards
- 2017 *Joris Ivens Archive*, Politics and Poetics Series, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Guest curator
Served as a guest curator of the Politics and Poetics film series, hosted by the Joris Ivens Archive
- “Other” *Cinema Society*, Santa Cruz, CA
Co-curator
Curated weekly screening series showcasing the work of Bay Area filmmaker Craig Baldwin and affiliated filmmakers whose work has been featured by Baldwin’s Other Cinema
- 2014 *¡Film Club!*, Santa Cruz, CA
Curator, Supervisor
Supervised and assisted in curating undergraduate screening series
- 2013-15 *Center for Documentary Arts and Research (CDAR)*, Santa Cruz, CA
Graduate Coordinator
Programmed, organized, publicized and documented screenings, lectures and other events, maintained the CDAR website, wrote grants and assisted in fundraising efforts
- 2013-14 *UC Santa Cruz*, Santa Cruz, CA
Graduate Student Researcher
Conducted research, compiled database and created data visualizations for book projects by UCSC faculty members Jennifer Horne and Jonathan Kahana
- 2006-08 *Prison Law Office*, San Francisco, CA
Legal Assistant
Worked for public interest law firm advocating for the rights of prisoners and parolees in the California Department of Corrections (CDCR). Monitored conditions for California prisoners with disabilities and medical concerns through face-to-face interviews and mail correspondence with prisoners, and through regular tours of CDCR facilities
- 2005-06 *ATTAP*, New York, NY
Independent Consultant/Reviewer for Riffs.com
Graduate Student Researcher
Served as an alpha user for a social networking website focusing on film, television, book and music reviews. Authored reviews for the website, and acted as a consultant regarding user interface and content

FREELANCE & COMMISSIONED MEDIA WORK

- 2017 *Community Studies: We Are Everywhere*
Producer, Director, Director of Photography, Editor
Documentary about Community Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz, a 45-year-old program with a mission to train students to become community activists
- 2013 *Inside the Distance* (<http://insidethedistance.net/>)

Production Manager, Assistant Director of Photography, Assistant Editor
Online new media documentary project about restorative justice programs in Belgium, produced
by artist Sharon Daniel

2011 *Little John*

Producer, Editor

Production Manager, Assistant Director of Photography, Assistant Editor

Official music video for Professor Burns and the Lilac Field

2006 *Idiot Box Productions*, New York, NY

Production Assistant, Office Manager

Show development for a small television production company focusing on current events
programming

2005 *Democracy's Ghosts*, Off-Ramp Films, New York, NY

Assistant Editor, Production and Research Assistant

Documentary commissioned by the ACLU about voter disfranchisement of former felons

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Literate in Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro Studio, Max MSP, Pro Tools, Audacity, Squarespace,
Wordpress, Drupal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Visible Evidence

Radical Film Network

Print Organize Protest Collective